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MONTANA

Employment and Labor Force

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MONTHLY REPORT

STATE OF MONTANA
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
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HELENA MONTANA
59601

JOB SERVICE

JANUARY 1977

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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

MONTHLY REPORT

JANUARY 1977

STATE OF MONTANA

THOMAS L. JUDGE, GOVERNOR

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
Box 1728
Helena, Montana 59601

Volume 7 Number 1

Produced by:
Research and Analysis
in cooperation with the
U. S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
and Bureau of Labor Statistics

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. Civilian Labor Force - the number of persons 16 years and older, defined as employed or unemployed, excluding members of the Armed Forces.

2. Employed - those persons who work for pay or profit during a week or, as unpaid family workers, work 15 hours or more during a week. Also included as employed are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, including persons temporarily absent from a job due to illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, whether or not they were in a pay status during their time off.

3. Unemployment - the number of persons who, for an entire week, did not work at all, were able to work and available for work, and (1) were looking for work or (2) would have looked for work except that (a) they were waiting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or (b) they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days (and were not in school during the week).

4. Unemployment Rate - the number of unemployed expressed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

5. Residence Data - a count of employment by where people live.

6. Establishment Data - a count of employment by where people work.

7. Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Series - to facilitate the evaluation of the labor force, recurrent yearly movements have been isolated and removed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics seasonal factor method.

8. Composite Index - an aggregate of six leading indicators. The indicators used are: Manufacturing - Employment, Average Weekly Hours, total Accessions and Layoffs; Average Weekly Initial Claims; and statewide Building Permits. A reverse trend was used for Layoffs and Average Weekly Initial Claims. This composite index is in no manner or form comparable to the United States composite index as published in "Business Conditions Digest", U. S. Department of Commerce.

9. Real Spendable Average Weekly Earnings of Private Nonagricultural Production Workers - represents the earnings of a hypothetical individual after deductions for State Income, Federal Income and Social Security taxes, and adjustment for change in purchasing power since 1967. This individual is assumed to be sole support for a family of four, earn the average weekly gross earnings of production workers in Montana's private nonagricultural industries, and take standard deductions on State and Federal income taxes. Taxes were computed using standard tax tables, and purchasing power was adjusted by deflating Spendable Earnings based on the national Consumer Price Index.

10. WIN - Work Incentive Program for Aid to Dependent Children recipients.

11. CETA - Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1974.

12. CETA-CEP - Concentrated Employment Program funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

13. SMSA - Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area as determined by Office of Management and Budget. Must have a central city with population of 50,000 or more.

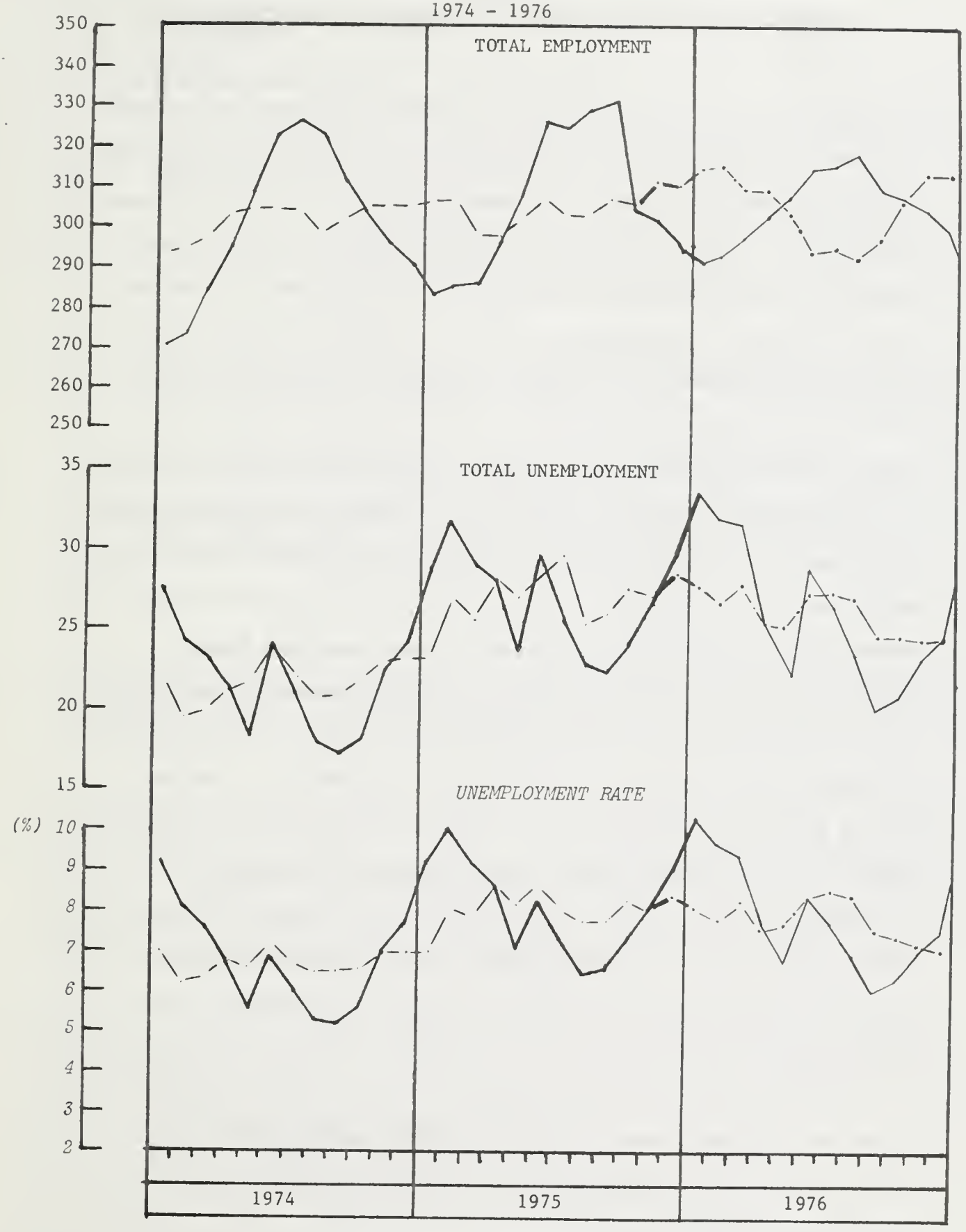
14. LMA - Labor Market Area as determined by the Montana Employment Security Division consists of a central city or cities with population of less than 50,000, and the economically integrated geographical area surrounding it.

MONTANA EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: ——)

(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: ·-·-)

1974 - 1976



BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES, VS ACTUAL STATE OF MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

The Bureau of Labor statistics compiles national unemployment on the basis of a monthly Current Population Survey (C.P.S.). Twenty-seven states have large enough samples to enable the Bureau to determine those state's unemployment rate. Twenty-three states, in which Montana is included, must determine their unemployment by means of a statistical formula. Because of the difference in methodology, when C.P.S. states are added to non-C.P.S. states, the unemployment rate differs from that of the "National" rate.

Early in 1976 the Office of Management and Budget mandated that the Bureau of Labor Statistics force the aggregate of all states to equal the national C.P.S. estimates. March 4, 1976, this agency was mandated by the Bureau to adjust the state unemployment rate for 1975 and throughout 1976 downward. All states in B. L. S. Region VIII received the same adjustment factors. Analysis of these adjustment factors indicatesthat Montana's unemployment rate would arbitrarily be reduced and end results would be misleading and not representative of Montana's actual economic conditions. Therefore, because this agency owes the public in Montana the most reliable and consistent figures available, Montana's Employment Security Research and Analysis Section will continue to publish what is felt are actual unemployment statistics in this publication. This agency will furnish the Bureau with adjusted figures on required reports, but Montana will not publish them.

Because of the above, Bureau of Labor Statistics publications will not agree with statistics as <u>published</u> by Montana's Employment Security Research and Analysis Section.

HIGHTLIGHTS OF THE MONTANA LABOR MARKET

JANUARY 1977

STATE OF MONTANA

Montana's employment statistics for December reflected the return of seasonal weather patterns. Cold temperatures and snow forced shutdowns in most construction work, impeded logging in western Montana, and deterred gas/oil exploration in eastern parts of the state. The resultant drop in employment did push the unemployment rate to 7.6%; however, the seasonally-adjusted rate fell to 7.1%--a noticeable improvement from the 8.6% rate in December 1975.

Unemployment Insurance claims increased 21% from November to December with the increase directly related to layoffs in seasonal occupations. Claims from females dropped 5%, male claimants increased 37% in December. Further examination of claimant characteristics show a monthly increase of 71% in claimants from the construction industry, with the increase reaching 90% in construction other than building construction. Claimants who were last employed in the lumber/wood products industry increased 27%, and a 35% increase was witnessed in claims from unemployed oil/gas extraction workers. Gains in female employment materialized in educational services in recent months. This is reflected in the 28% decrease in female claimants in education from November to December. This is the primary influence upon the actual monthly decline in claims by females.

Montana's economic indicators continue to suggest a heightening of activity, particularly in the manufacturing sector. While the composite index of leading indicators slipped to 100.4 from 101.5 in October, employment and average weekly hours in manufacturing remained strong. Total average weekly hours have reached their highest point since December of 1973, when the first signs of recession appeared.

Statewide building permits remained unchanged from November to December. Momentum in building construction has been sustained into the winter months and we are still about 10% above 1975 totals. In addition, bank debits in Montana are running almost 40% ahead of 1975 totals. The only weakness remains the uncertainty of consumer behavior. Purchases of new cars (as measured by statewide new car registrations) show no indication of renewed consumer confidence, although activity throughout the retail sector was up during the holidays. Additionally, the lack of movement in real wage levels has not helped relieve consumer reluctance.

Montanans can expect seasonal conditions to inhibit economic growth throughout the remaining winter months. If our primary industries can continue to maintain present levels of activity, we are not likely to see any real declines in employment. In fact, the forecast for 1977 is for a yearly average total employment around 311,000 workers, or an annual average growth of about 2%.

GREAT FALLS SMSA (Cascade County)

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force dropped 300 from November to 33,400 for December. Of these, 31,300 held jobs, 1,100 more than the same month a year ago. Agricultural and construction employment declined by 300 from last month, and the trade industry went up slightly, while all major industries remained unchanged from the previous month.

December's non-farm and wage employment is 1,300 higher than the same month in 1975, which is a healthy growth rate of over 5%. The number of unemployed actually dropped by 200 from November at 2,100. The December unemployment rate was 6.4%, a considerable improvement from 8.5% recorded for December 1975. In December, claimants from the construction industry accounted for about 36% of all claims filed in the Great Falls employment office. The number of all claimants rose by over 25% from the previous month. About one-fourth of all claims were filed by females, of which most were formerly employed at eating and drinking places, motels, and hotels, and in the health service field.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

In Great Falls, cumulative bank debits through November rose 124% from the same period in 1975. A total of 37 building permits were issued in the month of December, down 17 from the previous month and less than half of October's figures. This follows normal trends as building permits reach the lowest ebb during the December—February period. Reflecting a positive year, new business formations rose 32% during 1976 from the calendar year 1975.

The employment outlook for the near future in Great Falls is good, except for seasonal industries, particularly agricultural and construction workers. It is estimated that over 250 area construction workers were unemployed at year's end.

However, the other major industries are maintaining present levels of employment. Many Great Falls retail merchants are currently promoting after Christmas liquidation sales.

BILLINGS SMSA (Yellowstone County)

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In December, 50,900 individuals participated in the civilian labor force in the Billings SMSA. Employment totaled 48,100, nearly 6% greater than a year ago. Non-agricultural (wage and salary) employment was above last year in all of the major industrial categories. The number of jobless rose 300 from November at 2,800. On an unadjusted basis, 5.5% of the civilian labor force were unemployed during December. Among males filing claims in the Billings job service office in December, nearly one half were construction workers. Females filed about 20% of all claims, of which one half were from clerical and sales occupations. The number of women filing claims actually declined from November, but this was more than offset by increase in male claimants.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Cumulative bank debits through November rose 16% from 1975 levels in the city of Billings. Laurel and Worden also posted increases, 29% and 25% respectively. In 1976, a total of 583 new businesses were formed in Yellowstone County. This represents an increase of 46% over a year ago.

The building industry also experienced a very good year, as a total of 1,182 new housing units were started during the first 11 months of 1976, compared to 809 last year. The city issued 664 permits for single family dwellings, 51 for duplexes, and 47 for other multi-unit buildings. To further alleviate the housing shortage, a joint venture is being undertaken to build a projected 120-unit town/row house project, with five units already under construction. This type of single family dwelling is new to Billings. With an asking price of $31,000, these two-bedroom homes are designed to attract young married couples and retired people.

In early January, a labor dispute was prevented between the three Billings area refineries and the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union. Nearly 500 workers were affected by the contract settlement. A Billings shipping company announced plans for a three-phase expansion program. The first phase will involve moving into a new facility by early next fall, employing an additional 14 employees. A sugar plant in Billings announced a layoff of 20-25 workers in an effort to cut production costs.

The general outlook for the Billings area appears bright for 1977. There is some worry over supply of crude oil for the Billings refineries because of possible further curtailments of Canadian oil.

ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

At 34.5 thousand, December's civilian labor force in the Anaconda-Butte labor area dropped 1.4% from last month, and 5.2% from December 1975. The number of employed persons totaled 31.6 thousand in December, with 2,900 people on the area's unemployment rolls. The unemployment rate reached 8.4% down from the 11.5% recorded for the same month a year ago. The December claimant characteristics reveal that over one half of the male claimants in the Anaconda employment office were formerly employed in the mining, construction, or lumber and wood products industries. Females accounted for about 30% of total claims. In the Butte office, health, and educational services, eating, drinking, and lodging employees accounted for just less than one half of female claimants. The number of claims filed by men jumped nearly 15% from the previous month.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

A total of 139 new passenger cars were registered during the month of November in the six-county Anaconda labor market area. On a cumulative basis, car registrations rose by 1.3% during the first 11 months of 1976. Beaverhead, Powell, and Silver Bow county totals accounted for this annual gain. A total of 22 new businesses were formed in December, bringing the yearly total for 1976 to 254--an increase of 30% over 1975. With the exception of Beaverhead County, which witnessed a decline of 16%, all the counties in the

area posted gains. Total bank debits from January through November advanced 10% in Butte, but declined 6% in Anaconda from 1975 levels. Butte area's mining industry will feel the impact of the layoff of about 140 workers involved in open pit copper mining. The first layoffs occurred at the beginning of January, affecting 39 workers, mainly truck drivers and machinists. Additional layoffs of a total of about 100 employees are expected by January 31, 1977. Low copper prices and the unusually hard ore that is currently being mined (causing an imbalance between mine production and concentrator capacity) were cited as primary reasons for the job cutbacks. However, mining operations could receive a shot in the arm, as federal court action recently upheld a merger between the Anaconda Company and the Atlantic Richfield Company. Another bright prospect lies in the construction and operation of the Magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) project. A contractor for the project speculated that about 200 workers could be employed during the construction of the facility.

Because of cold weather and snow, layoffs have occurred in the logging industry in the Anaconda/Deer Lodge areas, and the construction industry is particularly slow. The city of Deer Lodge received a $75,000 grant for the transformation of the old state prison into a museum. However, the grant is contingent upon the transfer of ownership of the prison to the city. Also, Deer Lodge County was appropriated $510,940 by the Economic Development Administration for a senior citizens' center. An economic boost could be felt in the Phillipsburg area. A sawmill firm that shut down operations over a year ago is considering reopening this spring. The firm could initially employ 10-15 people for milling of wood fencing and other miscellaneous wood products. Finally, because of proposed budget cuts, the state hospital at Warm Springs may have to lay off as many as 100 employees over a seven-month period.

BOZEMAN LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The Bozeman area's civilian labor force stood at 23,200 in December. Total employment fell 500 from last month to 21,600, although the number unemployed (1,600) remained unchanged from November. The unemployment rate hit 7%, which is an improvement from the same month last year, when 9.1% of the labor force were out of work. The number of claims filed by males increased by over 40% in the Bozeman job service office, and by over 60% in the Livingston office from November to December. Females accounted for about 40% of all claims in both offices. Eating and drinking places accounted for the largest percentage of female claimants.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

In November, 127 new cars were registered in the Bozeman labor market area. Year-to-date car registrations totaled 1,802, representing a 4.5% increase over the first 11 months of 1975. Gallatin County accounted for nearly all of the annual increase, as Park County actually recorded an 8.5% decline. New business formations during 1976 reached 292, a 23% gain from 1975. Cumulative bank debits for the first 11 months of 1976 were up 9% in Bozeman and 12% in Livingston. Following a recessionary period, increases of this magnitude represent only modest gains.

Road construction work on the Bozeman pass area has been shut down completely for the winter season. Only a skeleton crew was affected, as the majority of the workers were laid off late last fall. In Bozeman several new stores opened including: An Indian jewelry store, a coffee and doughnut shop employing four people, and an appliance warranty repair shop.

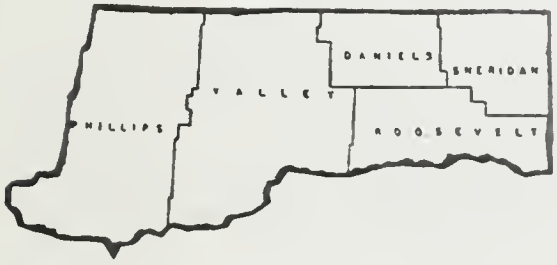
However, a clothing and sporting goods store closed its doors December 31st. Also, a franchise restaurant closed its doors in January affecting about 18 people.

Of concern to Belgrade area residents, was the announcement by an area sawmill, that due to a lack of contracts with the railroad, they are unable to obtain enough logs to maintain production. The mill currently employs about 115 people and any action by the firm is expected to occur within a month. Both of the major ski resorts in Gallatin County have been operating since the middle of December. The full impact of the late opening has still not been measured, although the ski areas have fared better than many of the Rocky Mountain regional resorts.

In Livingston, a new grocery store opened this month resulting in jobs for about eight people. A local bank opened a new addition providing about six new positions.

Unemployment should remain high during the next several months, as outdoor related industries cutback operations. However, the Bozeman job service office has reported several openings for single farmhands at $350 a month plus room and board. The Livingston office reported some openings for clerical, sales, and service industry workers.

GLASGOW LMA



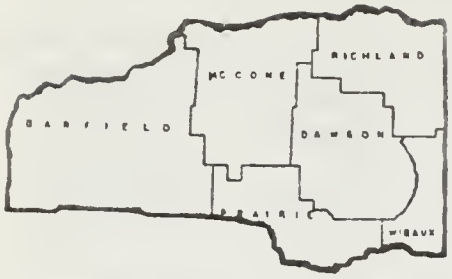
Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In December, the civilian labor force stood at 15,600, four hundred less than the same month a year ago. The number of job holders dropped 400 from November and 300 from a year ago to 14,600. The number of unemployed rose slightly from November to 1,000, an unemployment rate of 6.4%. Females accounted for about 28% of all claims filed in the Glasgow employment office in December. Among females, nearly 80% were last employed in clerical, sales, or service oriented occupations, while about one-half of the male claimants last were in occupations involving structural work. Claims filed in December by males and females increased by 18% and 14%, respectively, over December levels. In the Wolf Point office, 80% of all claimants were men.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

During 1976, 141 new businesses were formed in the Glasgow labor market area. Daniels and Valley counties accounted for most of the 22% increase over 1975 levels. In Glasgow, year-to-date bank debits, a rough measure of consumer and business spending for goods and services, increased 14%. Area builders are expecting a favorable building climate for 1977. In fact, several large jobs are expected to be let in the next two months. Since last month a machine lathe and welding service has opened, and a lounge has been remodeled and reopened, both in Glasgow. The business community could receive a strong stimulus as several prospective employers are still considering the relocation of their business operations to the former Glasgow Air Force Base. If a primary industry, such as a manufacturing establishment were to move into the area, secondary benefits could provide jobs for an additional two to three times the number of people actually employed by the primary industry. One local manufacturer presently located at the base has reported job opportunities for sewing machine operators.

GLENDIVE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In December, the number of participants in the labor force remained unchanged from the previous month at 13,100. The number of people working stood at 12,300 - 200 less than in November 1976 and in December 1975. The number of jobless rose to 800, compared with 600 in November. The percentage of those unemployed reached 6%, lowest of all labor market areas in the state. In December, nearly one-half of males filing claims in the Sidney job service office were construction workers. Females represented about 27% of all claimants, of which 45% were formerly employed in the trade industry. In the Glendive office, 60% of the males were last employed in construction and oil and gas exploration. Among females, 56% came from either lodging or eating and drinking places.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Cumulative bank debits through November rose 14% over 1975 levels in the cities of Glendive and Sidney. Over the same period, new car registrations declined 7.4% in the six-county labor area, with only Richland County recording an increase over year-ago levels. In fact, registrations were less than half of 1975 totals in McCone and Wibaux counties, while on a statewide basis, cumulative 1976 car registrations were less than one percent below the year before. New business formations for 1976 were also below last year by 5.2%. Although four of the counties actually realized healthy gains, a 37% decline in Dawson County brought the totals below a year ago.

The Glendive job office reported that despite the shutdown of nearly all road construction in the area, limited building construction continues, including work on a new bank, apartments, and an addition to a nursing home. The cold weather has impaired oil field exploration and cut agricultural activities to primarily livestock feeding. Some of the local cafes in Glendive have begun placing orders with the employment office for experienced cooks and waitresses.

Oil and gas exploration still continues in the Sidney area, with some call for rotary driller helpers and experienced derrick hands. In the retail sector, Sidney businessmen report fair sales as shoppers seek after Christmas bargains.

The outlook for the Glendive labor market area is still quite uncertain. Unemployment will continue at its seasonal high through March. Meanwhile, the business community and area farmers and ranchers are hoping for a much better year for cattle and wheat prices.

HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

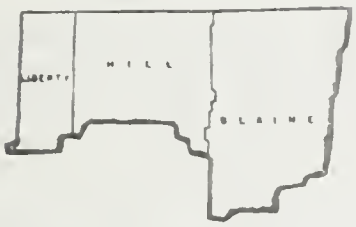
In December, the civilian labor force fell 100 from the previous month to 10,600. The total number of job holders in the four-county labor market area dropped to 9,900, 200 fewer than November. Total unemployment reached 700, up 100 from last month, but 100 below the same month a year ago. The unemployment rate averaged 7.1%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

In November 26 new cars were registered in the Hardin labor market area. Total registrations for 1976 through November were 10.1% above last year. Total cumulative registrations by county were as follows: Big Horn County 236, down 1.7%; Carbon County 92, up 4.5%; Stillwater County 128, up 37.6%; and Sweet Grass County 80, up 29%. New business formations

totaled 90, nearly 18% over 1975. Only Big Horn County showed a decline from last year. The unemployment rate in the Hardin labor area remained below the statewide average during the fourth quarter of 1976. In terms of new car registrations and new businesses, only Big Horn County realized a net loss from a year ago.

HAVRE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The number or persons participating in the labor force in December (11.6 thousand) was 200 less than a year ago. The number of employed persons totaled 10.8 thousand. The number of jobless rose 100 from last month to 800, 6.8% of the labor force. In the Havre job service office, total claims filed by males rose 56% from November to December, while the number of female claims dropped 8%. Construction workers accounted for 36% of all male claimants and nearly half of the females were last employed in some occupation within the service industry.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

During the first 11 months of 1976, 780 new cars were registered in the Havre labor market area. This represents a 2.1% decline from 1975. Blaine and Liberty counties recorded a joint increase of 10%, while Hill County declined 8.7%. During 1976, new business formations showed a positive trend as 127 new firms began operation, 46% ahead of year ago levels. At the same time, total bank debits through November increased 60% in the city of Havre.

The Havre job office reported that employment activities have slowed considerably in the past month. Because of snow and cold weather, many of the area's important outdoor related industries,primarily agriculture, construction and exploration drilling, have been curtailed.

HELENA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In December, there were 21,400 individuals participating in the labor force in the three-county Helena labor area. Of these, 19,800 were employed, 200 less than the previous month, while the number of jobless remained unchanged from November at 1,600. This decline in employment caused the unemployment rate to rise slightly to 7.4%. In December, women accounted for about one-third of all unemployment claims filed in the Helena job service office. Among women, nearly 74% were last employed in clerical, sales or service occupations. In contrast, over 40% of the male claimants were last employed in either construction, lumber and wood products, or health service industries.

Economic Highlights and Employment Situation:

The overall economy was extremely good during 1976 in the Helena labor area, particularly in Lewis and Clark County. In the city of Helena, bank debits for the first 11 months of 1976 were up 26% from the same period in 1975. In the same time frame, residential building permits in Helena rose from 118 to 181, an increase of over 47%. In 1975, residential permits rose 141% over the previous year.

A total of 233 new businesses were formed in 1976 in the Helena labor market area. This compares with 181 a year ago.

A new beer distributor has moved into a new building, hired a work force, and has now begun operations. A local soft drink distributor also moved into new facilities and one of the city's major chain grocery stores announced plans to open a new larger store in Helena. Helena is expected to further expand its trade and service industry during 1977. The Helena downtown mall is expected to remodel or build facilities for several new stores and a large firm is planning on building another motor hotel in the mall area. With a stable government industry as a base, Helena has continued a steady growth rate in terms of both population and jobs. The local economy is currently receiving an additional stimulus from the state's legislative session.

KALISPELL LMA:

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In December, 27,700 people were employed in the Kalispell labor market area. The number of jobless totaled 3,400, or 10.8% of the area's labor force. During the same month a year ago, 5,000 people were unemployed, and the unemployment rate stood at 15.1%. In the Kalispell job office, construction workers and lumber and wood products industry employees accounted for 27% and 17%, respectively, of all males filing claims in December. Eating and drinking places and lodging places jointly accounted for 33% of all female claimants. The Polson office showed similar characteristics except that 18% of the male claimants reported former employment in either educational services or executive government service.

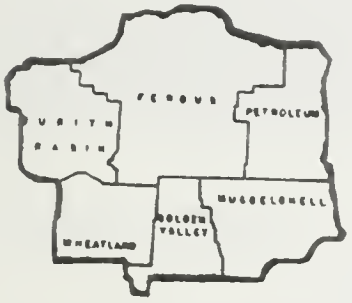
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

A total of 413 new businesses were started in the Kalispell labor market area during 1976. The three counties all recorded increases, bringing the total to 41% above 1975 levels. On the negative side, cumulative new car registrations through November were 2.8% below the year before. In the city of Kalispell, bank debits for the twelve month total through November, rose 22% above the previous period.

The Kalispell labor market has entered its weakest employment period. A surplus of labor exists in nearly all industrial categories. In particular, logging has been cut back considerably, mainly because of an excess of logs at the mills. Cold weather has hampered other outdoor related industries, especially construction work. In Libby, 35 to 40 people have been doing final finishing work on a new food store. Construction should begin shortly on $1.4 million remodeling project at the county courthouse for the sheriff's department.

In the Polson area, construction work has been continuing on several large projects including: a nursing home in Ronan, a 40-unit apartment complex, and a nursing home addition in Polson. Work is scheduled to start this spring on Tribal Complex in Pablo. The building is expected to be complete in October 1977 at a cost of $732,000. One sawmill in the Polson area is adding a night shift providing work for an additional 11 employees.

LEWISTOWN LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In the Lewistown labor area, there were 10,800 individuals participating in the labor force in December. Total employment fell 200 from November to 9,900. Consequently, the number of jobless rose to 900 or 8% of the civilian labor force.

In the Lewistown job service office, 82% of the unemployment claims were filed by males, as the number of male claimants rose by over 100% from November. Highway construction workers accounted for about one-third of all males. Among females, 27% reported the health service industry as their last place of employment.

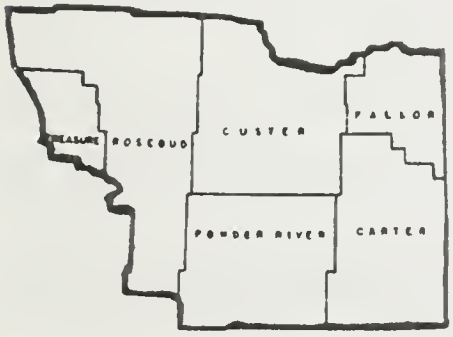
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

New car registrations for the first 11 months of 1976 were 9% below the same period a year ago. In the six-county area, only Judith Basin County realized a gain. On the other hand, new business formations in the labor market area for 1976 were up 33% from the year before, and in Lewistown cumulative bank debits through November showed an increase of 17%.

In Lewistown, building construction in process includes a city-county jail complex, a new drive-in, remodeling of a veteran's organization building, and several new homes. The total cost of the above projects is expected to be near $8 million. However, the weather has occasionally halted all but the enclosed portions of the projects. A new church and restauant are planned, and construction should begin when the weather allows. The cold weather contributed to the temporary closure of a local brick yard and several area sawmills.

Retailers in Lewistown reported good sales during the Christmas season, and are currently doing well with stock liquidation promotions.

MILES CITY LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The number of labor force participants remained unchanged for the third straight month at 13,200 for December. The number of job holders dropped 300 from November to 12,200, while total unemployment rose proportionately to 1,000, or 7.5% of the civilian labor force. The Miles City employment office reported a 110% increase in the number of male claimants. Highway construction workers accounted for about 40% of all male claimants. About one-sixth of December's claimants were females, of which nearly 40% were formerly employed in highway construction work or eating and drinking places.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

In 1976, 163 new businesses were formed in the six-county Miles City labor market area, 39% above 1975 levels. Also, cumulative new car registrations through November realized a 17% gain over year ago levels. Custer and Rosebud counties accounted for all of this increase in car registrations. During the same period, the city of Miles City showed a 16% increase in cumulative bank debits.

A decision was made in early January to close a plastic manufacturing company that operates assembly plants in two Montana locations. The two plants in Ashland and Lodge Grass jointly employ an estimated 150 to 200 people. The Ashland firm in Rosebud County has been a stable employer for the past 15 years providing work for many of the local Cheyenne Indians. The firm will continue operating until all current orders are filled, which should provide work for employees until about March 1st.

MISSOULA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In December, the civilian labor force dropped 600 from the previous month to 39.1 thousand. The number of job holders fell to 35.1 thousand, with unemployment rising slightly to four thousand. The unemployment rate hit 10.2% compared to 9.9% in November and 12.1% in December 1975.

The Missoula employment office reported a 42% increase in the number of male claimants and a 16% increase in claims filed by females. The actual distribution of claims by industry did not change significantly from the previous month. In the Hamilton office, the number of males filing claims for unemployment insurance rose by about 24% from the previous month. Over half of the male claimants were construction workers. In comparison, the number of female claimants increased nearly 30%, and almost 20% reported the health service industry as their last place of employment.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

In the Missoula LMA, new car registrations totaled 3,632 for the first 11 months of 1976, 12.8% above the same time frame a year earlier. This year, bank debits in Missoula (city) have increased 40%. During calendar year 1976, a total of 491 new businesses were started in the four-county area, which represents a 13.7% gain over 1975.

A new pancake house had its grand opening in Missoula in late January. After the opening, about 40 people will remain at the restaurant as permanent help. Also a restaurant facility addition was built next to a Missoula chain grocery store, a local official reports that another restaurant and a hardware store are in the final planning stages, and framing work is progressing on a new fast food restaurant.

The building inspector in Missoula reported a very good construction year, with 323 single family residences and 136 multi-unit apartments for a total valuation of $21 million for the year.

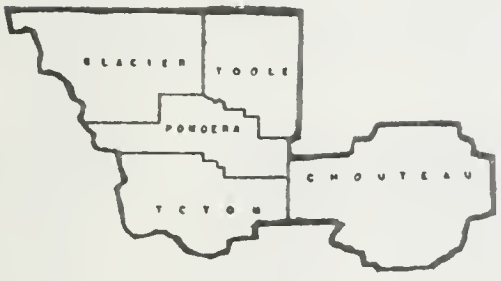
Contracts have been awarded to two firms for a sewer lagoon project in Victor. Construction is expected to start about the first of March, and one firm will add about 12 new employees.

A Darby based sawmill has started trial runs on its new stud mill near Connor. The mill is replacing the one that burned down last March and will provide reemployment for about 40 to 45 workers. The firm previously employed approximately 70 people.

The employment problem in Sanders County could receive some relief, as a mill near Thompson Falls is presently considering adding a third work shift. The job service office in Thompson Falls reported a slight drop in claim load, as some area timber fallers went back to work.

In 1977, the state of the economy in the Missoula labor market will largely depend on the health of the area's major primary industry, lumber and wood products. Some Economists are forecasting 1.7 million housing starts in 1977, nationally, compared to 1.5 million in 1976. Following these assumptions, forecasters are looking for modest gains in both lumber prices, and employment.

SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In December, the civilian labor force stood at 16,500 individuals in the five-county Shelby labor market area, of which 15,500 were employed. A total of 1,000 individuals were unemployed in December, unchanged from November and 100 less than the same month in 1975. The unemployment rate was computed at 6.3%, second lowest of all major labor areas in the state.

In the Cut Bank local employment office, males accounted for nearly three-fourths of all claimants in December. The building and social service sectors accounted for 25% and 13%, respectively, of all males filing claims. About 14% of all female claimants were former health service workers. Claims in the Shelby office showed the following characteristics: males 80%, highway construction employees, 25%; females, 20%; eating and drinking places employees, 30%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

In 1976, 174 new businesses were formed in the Shelby-Cut Bank labor area. In comparison with 1975, new business firms were up nearly 36%, with all five counties realizing good percentage gains. Cumulative new car registrations also showed positive economic movement, up 8.6% from the first 11 months of 1975. (This is significant considering that on a statewide basis, 1976 new car registrations were at only moderate levels, actually declining from the previous year.) In the same period, cumulative bank debits rose 24% in the city of Cut Bank.

Plans are progressing on two new shopping centers, one in Cut Bank and one in Browning. Construction is expected to start this spring on both centers. However, currently many of the construction jobs have been halted because of cold weather. Area merchants stated that December sales were good. The city of Browning has asked for a modification of their public works contract to allow for the hiring of five additional workers.

At present, the farming situation appears bleak because the winter wheat crops are in poor condition due to a lack of moisture.

MANPOWER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES
DECEMBER 1976

Program	New Enrollees	Job Placements	End of Month Enrollment
WIN	337	77	2,021
CETA-CEP	91	48	221
CETA-INST.	119	25	422
CETA-OJT	25	16	72
JOB CORPS	28	11	248
PSE	203	45	947
CIP	11	8	180

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - U. S.[1/]
(1967 = 100)

Group	Dec. 1976	*Percent Change From:* Nov. 1976	Dec. 1975
All Items	174.3	*.3%*	*4.8%*

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNEMPLOYED[2/]

Social Characteristics	*Percent of Total Covered Unemployment*
Non-White	*3.5%*
Female	*31.6%*
Youth	*9.5%*
Over 45	*24.3%*

1/ The Consumer Price Index measures changes in prices of goods and services bought by urban wage earners and clerical workers, including families and single persons.

2/ Based on 20% sample of Continued Claims filed during the week including the 19th of each month in all local offices.

Table I

RESIDENCE DATA

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ Montana	Percent 1/ U. S.	
1975								
January	308.7	279.8	253.0	26.8	28.9	*9.4*	*9.0*	*
February	309.6	278.2	250.8	27.4	31.4	*10.2*	*9.1*	.1
March	316.6	287.3	257.1	30.2	29.3	*9.2*	*9.1*	.3
April	320.3	292.3	259.4	32.9	28.0	*8.7*	*8.6*	.2
May	327.9	304.3	267.3	37.0	23.6	*7.2*	*8.3*	.1
June	349.1	319.7	278.9	40.8	29.4	*8.4*	*9.1*	.1
July	346.9	321.3	279.1	42.2	25.6	*7.4*	*8.7*	.2
August	350.9	327.9	280.7	47.2	23.0	*6.6*	*8.2*	*
September	340.2	317.7	279.3	38.4	22.5	*6.6*	*8.1*	.3
October	332.6	308.4	274.4	34.0	24.2	*7.3*	*7.8*	.3
November	332.4	305.8	274.3	31.5	26.6	*8.0*	*7.8*	.2
December	330.7	300.6	271.4	29.2	30.1	*9.1*	*7.8*	.2
1975 Avg.	330.5	303.6	268.8	34.8	26.9	*8.1*	*8.5*	.1
1976								
January	324.8	291.2	262.4	28.8	33.6	*10.3*	*8.8*	*
February	323.6	292.1	263.3	28.8	31.5	*9.7*	*8.7*	*
March	328.3	297.3	265.8	31.5	31.0	*9.5*	*8.1*	*
April	328.6	302.8	267.8	35.0	25.8	*7.9*	*7.4*	*
May	330.4	308.1	271.0	37.1	22.3	*6.8*	*6.7*	*
June	343.0	314.1	273.0	41.1	28.9	*8.4*	*8.0*	*
July	341.6	315.3	275.2	40.1	26.3	*7.7*	*7.8*	.1
August	341.4	318.0	273.3	44.7	23.4	*6.9*	*7.6*	.1
September	330.1	309.9	274.3	35.6	20.2	*6.1*	*7.4*	.1
October	329.0	308.0	275.1	32.9	21.0	*6.4*	*7.2*	.1
November	328.5	305.2	276.0	29.2	23.3	*7.1*	*7.4*	.1
December	325.0	300.4	274.5	25.9	24.6	*7.6*	*7.4*	.1
Avg.								
1977								
January	*322.8*	*290.9*	*265.5*	*25.4*	*31.9*	*9.9*		.1
February								
March								
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1975 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

RESIDENCE DATA

Table II

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1] County	Percent[1] State	
1975								
January	31.1	28.5	27.4	1.1	2.6	*8.3*	*9.4*	*
February	31.2	28.2	27.1	1.1	3.0	*9.7*	*10.2*	*
March	31.8	29.0	27.8	1.2	2.8	*8.7*	*9.2*	.1
April	32.5	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.7	*8.3*	*8.7*	.1
May	32.7	30.3	28.8	1.5	2.4	*7.3*	*7.2*	*
June	33.7	30.9	29.3	1.6	2.8	*8.4*	*8.4*	*
July	33.7	31.0	29.3	1.7	2.7	*8.1*	*7.4*	*
August	33.7	31.2	29.3	1.9	2.5	*7.4*	*6.6*	*
September	33.3	30.9	29.4	1.5	2.4	*7.3*	*6.6*	*
October	33.0	30.3	29.0	1.3	2.7	*8.1*	*7.3*	*
November	33.0	30.4	29.2	1.2	2.6	*7.9*	*8.0*	*
December	33.0	30.2	29.0	1.2	2.8	*8.5*	*9.1*	*
1975 Avg.	32.7	30.0	28.6	1.4	2.7	*8.2*	*8.1*	*
1976								
January	32.4	29.2	28.1	1.1	3.2	*9.8*	*10.3*	*
February	32.2	29.3	28.2	1.1	2.9	*9.1*	*9.7*	*
March	32.9	29.9	28.7	1.2	3.0	*9.2*	*9.5*	*
April	32.5	29.9	28.5	1.4	2.6	*7.9*	*7.9*	*
May	33.5	31.2	29.7	1.5	2.3	*6.9*	*6.8*	*
June	35.0	31.7	30.1	1.6	3.3	*9.3*	*8.4*	*
July	34.4	31.5	29.9	1.6	2.9	*8.3*	*7.7*	*
August	34.2	31.7	29.9	1.8	2.5	*7.2*	*6.9*	*
September	33.5	31.5	30.1	1.4	2.0	*6.1*	*6.1*	*
October	33.8	31.6	30.3	1.3	2.2	*6.6*	*6.4*	*
November	33.7	31.4	30.2	1.2	2.3	*6.8*	*7.1*	*
December	33.4	31.3	30.3	1.0	2.1	*6.4*	*7.6*	*
Avg.								
1977								
January	*33.2*	*30.2*	*29.2*	*1.0*	*3.0*	*9.1*	*9.9*	*
February								
March								
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1975 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

Table III

RESIDENCE DATA

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1975								
January	45.4	42.0	40.8	1.2	3.4	*7.6*	*9.4*	*
February	45.1	41.5	40.2	1.3	3.6	*8.0*	*10.2*	*
March	45.6	42.0	40.6	1.4	3.6	*7.9*	*9.2*	.1
April	46.8	43.4	41.9	1.5	3.4	*7.3*	*8.7*	*
May	47.1	44.5	42.8	1.7	2.6	*5.6*	*7.2*	*
June	49.0	45.6	43.7	1.9	3.4	*7.0*	*8.4*	*
July	49.5	46.3	44.4	1.9	3.2	*6.5*	*7.4*	*
August	49.2	46.1	43.9	2.2	3.1	*6.2*	*6.6*	*
September	48.5	45.6	43.8	1.8	2.9	*5.9*	*6.6*	.2
October	48.4	45.6	44.0	1.6	2.8	*5.8*	*7.3*	.2
November	49.2	46.4	45.0	1.4	2.8	*5.8*	*8.0*	*
December	48.6	45.4	44.1	1.3	3.2	*6.5*	*9.1*	*
1975 Avg.	47.7	44.5	42.9	1.6	3.2	*6.7*	*8.1*	*
1976								
January	47.4	43.7	42.4	1.3	3.7	*7.9*	*10.3*	*
February	47.1	43.8	42.5	1.3	3.3	*7.1*	*9.7*	*
March	47.5	44.1	42.7	1.4	3.4	*7.2*	*9.5*	*
April	48.3	45.4	43.8	1.6	2.9	*5.9*	*7.9*	*
May	48.1	45.8	44.1	1.7	2.3	*4.8*	*6.8*	*
June	50.7	47.2	45.3	1.9	3.5	*6.9*	*8.4*	*
July	50.4	47.2	45.4	1.8	3.2	*6.3*	*7.7*	*
August	49.8	47.1	45.0	2.1	2.7	*5.5*	*6.9*	*
September	50.0	47.6	46.0	1.6	2.4	*4.7*	*6.1*	*
October	50.7	48.3	46.8	1.5	2.4	*4.6*	*6.4*	*
November	51.0	48.5	47.2	1.3	2.5	*4.9*	*7.1*	*
December	50.9	48.1	46.9	1.2	2.8	*5.5*	*7.6*	*
Avg.								
1977								
January	*50.2*	*46.2*	*45.0*	*1.2*	*4.0*	*8.0*	*9.9*	*
February								
March								
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1975 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table IV

MONTANA

Statewide Employment by Industry

DECEMBER 1976

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Dec. 1976	Nov. 1976	Dec. 1975	Net Changes to Current Month from: Nov. 1976	Dec. 1975
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	325.0	328.5	330.7	-3.5	-5.7
EMPLOYED PERSONS	300.4	305.2	300.6	-4.8	-.2
Persons Employed in Agriculture	25.9	29.2	29.2	-3.3	-3.3
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	24.6	23.3	30.1	1.3	-5.5
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*7.6*	*7.1*	*9.1*	*.6*	*-1.4*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*7.1*	*7.3*	*8.6*	*-.2*	*-1.5*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*246.1*	*247.6*	*243.0*	*-1.5*	*3.1*
MANUFACTURING	*23.0*	*23.3*	*22.2*	*-.3*	*.8*
Durable Goods	*14.4*	*14.6*	*14.0*	*-.2*	*.4*
24 Lumber and Wood Products	*8.5*	*8.6*	*8.4*	*-.1*	*.1*
33 Primary Metal Industries	*3.2*	*3.2*	*3.0*	*0*	*.2*
Other Durable Goods	*2.7*	*2.8*	*2.6*	*-.1*	*.1*
Nondurable Goods	*8.6*	*8.7*	*8.2*	*-.1*	*.4*
20 Food and Kindred Products	*4.2*	*4.3*	*3.9*	*-.1*	*.3*
27 Printing and Publishing	*1.9*	*2.0*	*1.9*	*-.1*	*0*
29 Petroleum and Coal Products	*1.2*	*1.2*	*1.1*	*0*	*.1*
Other Nondurable Goods	*1.3*	*1.2*	*1.3*	*.1*	*0*
MINING	*5.8*	*5.7*	*6.1*	*.1*	*-.3*
10 Metal Mining	*2.3*	*2.3*	*2.5*	*0*	*-.2*
12 & 14 Bitum. Coal, Quarrying, Non-Metal Mining	*1.6*	*1.6*	*1.6*	*0*	*0*
13 Oil and Gas Extraction	*1.9*	*1.8*	*2.0*	*.1*	*-.1*

CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	11.0	11.9	11.4	-.9	-.4
15 General Building Contractors	4.0	4.1	4.3	-.1	-.3
16 Heavy Construction Contractors	2.1	2.9	2.3	-.8	-.2
17 Special Trade Contractors	4.9	4.9	4.8	0	.1
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	19.5	19.5	19.1	0	.4
40 Railroad Transportation	6.3	6.3	5.9	0	.4
41-47 Transportation, except Railroad	5.8	5.8	5.9	0	-.1
48 & 49 Commun., Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	7.4	7.4	7.3	0	.1
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	60.9	61.0	61.3	-.1	-.4
Wholesale Trade	12.4	12.6	11.7	-.2	.7
Retail Trade	48.5	48.4	49.6	.1	-1.1
53 & 56 General Merchandise, Apparel, Accessories	8.5	8.5	9.5	0	-1.0
54 Food Stores	6.7	6.7	6.4	0	.3
55 Automotive Dealers, Service Stations	8.0	8.0	8.1	0	-.1
58 Eating and Drinking Places	15.2	15.2	14.9	0	.3
52, 57, 59 Bldg. Mat., Farm Equip., Furn., Misc.	10.1	10.0	10.7	.1	-.6
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	10.7	10.7	10.4	0	.3
SERVICES	47.3	47.3	45.3	0	2.0
70 Hotels and other Lodging Places	6.1	6.1	5.2	0	.9
72 Personal Services	2.6	2.6	2.5	0	.1
80 Medical and other Health Services	15.4	15.4	14.4	0	1.0
Other Services	23.2	23.2	23.2	0	0
GOVERNMENT	67.9	68.2	67.2	-.3	.7
91 Federal Government	13.2	13.6	13.5	-.4	-.3
92 State Colleges and Universities	9.7	9.6	9.6	.1	.1
92 Other State Government	10.2	10.2	10.0	0	.2
93 Local Education	22.3	22.2	21.8	.1	.5
93 Other Local Government	12.5	12.6	12.3	-.1	.2

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers. Current month preliminary. Revised to 1975 Benchmarks.

2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Establishment Series began January 1964; Residence Series began January 1970.

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table V

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

DECEMBER 1976

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Dec. 1976	Nov. 1976	Dec. 1975	Net Changes to Current Month from: Nov. 1976	Dec. 1975
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	33.4	33.7	33.0	-.3	.4
EMPLOYED PERSONS	31.3	31.4	30.2	-.1	1.1
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.0	1.2	1.2	-.2	-.2
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.1	2.3	2.8	-.2	-.7
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*6.4*	*6.8*	*8.5*	*-.4*	*-2.1*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*6.8*	*7.3*	*8.8*	*-.5*	*-2.0*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*28.9*	*28.9*	*27.6*	*.0*	*1.3*
MANUFACTURING	*1.8*	*1.8*	*1.7*	*.0*	*.1*
Contract Construction	*1.6*	*1.7*	*1.4*	*-.1*	*.2*
Transportation and Public Utilities	*2.0*	*2.0*	*1.8*	*.0*	*.2*
Wholesale and Retail Trade	*8.8*	*8.7*	*8.6*	*.1*	*.2*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*2.0*	*2.0*	*1.9*	*.0*	*.1*
Services and Mining	*6.8*	*6.8*	*6.2*	*.0*	*.6*
Government	*5.9*	*5.9*	*6.0*	*.0*	*-.1*

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.

2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Current month preliminary. *Revised to 1975 Benchmarks.*

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table VI

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

DECEMBER 1976

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Dec. 1976	Nov. 1976	Dec. 1975	Net Changes to Current Month from: Nov. 1976	Dec. 1975
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	50.9	51.0	48.6	-.1	2.3
EMPLOYED PERSONS	48.1	48.5	45.4	-.4	2.7
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.2	1.3	1.3	-.1	-.1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.8	2.5	3.2	.3	-.4
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*5.5*	*4.9*	*6.5*	*.6*	*-1.0*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*5.6*	*5.4*	*6.6*	*.2*	*-1.0*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*42.1*	*42.3*	*40.0*	*-.2*	*2.1*
MANUFACTURING	*3.8*	*4.0*	*3.5*	*-.2*	*.3*
Contract Construction	*2.3*	*2.3*	*2.0*	*.0*	*.3*
Transportation and Public Utilities	*3.4*	*3.4*	*3.3*	*.0*	*.1*
Wholesale and Retail Trade	*13.8*	*13.8*	*13.3*	*.0*	*.5*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*2.1*	*2.1*	*2.0*	*.0*	*.1*
Services and Mining	*8.3*	*8.4*	*8.2*	*-.1*	*.1*
Government	*8.4*	*8.3*	*7.7*	*.1*	*.7*

[1] *Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.*

[2] *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

Current month preliminary.

Revised to 1975 Benchmarks.

Table VII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Oct 1976	Nov. 1976	Dec. 1976	Oct. 1976	Nov. 1976	Dec. 1976	Oct. 1976	Nov. 1976	Dec. 1976	Oct. 1976	Nov. 1976	Dec. 1976
STATEWIDE	329.0	328.5	325.0	308.0	305.2	300.4	21.0	23.3	24.6	*6.4*	*7.1*	*7.6*
GREAT FALLS SMSA	33.8	33.7	33.4	31.6	31.4	31.3	2.2	2.3	2.1	*6.6*	*6.8*	*6.4*
BILLINGS SMSA	50.7	51.0	50.9	48.3	48.5	48.1	2.4	2.5	2.8	*4.6*	*4.9*	*5.5*
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	244.5	243.8	240.7	228.1	225.3	221.0	16.4	18.5	19.7	*6.7*	*7.6*	*8.2*
ANACONDA-BUTTE	35.2	35.0	34.5	32.4	32.1	31.6	2.8	2.9	2.9	*7.9*	*8.2*	*8.4*
BOZEMAN	23.8	23.7	23.2	22.4	22.1	21.6	1.4	1.6	1.6	*5.8*	*6.8*	*7.0*
GLASGOW	16.1	15.9	15.6	15.2	15.0	14.6	.9	.9	1.0	*5.4*	*5.9*	*6.4*
GLENDIVE	13.2	13.1	13.1	12.7	12.5	12.3	.5	.6	.8	*4.0*	*4.6*	*6.0*
HARDIN-RED LODGE	10.7	10.7	10.6	10.2	10.1	9.9	.5	.6	.7	*4.4*	*6.1*	*7.1*
HAVRE	11.8	11.8	11.6	11.2	11.1	10.8	.6	.7	.8	*5.2*	*5.7*	*6.8*
HELENA	21.6	21.6	21.4	20.2	20.0	19.8	1.4	1.6	1.6	*6.5*	*7.2*	*7.4*
KALISPELL	31.4	31.4	31.1	28.6	28.1	27.7	2.8	3.3	3.4	*8.8*	*10.4*	*10.8*
LEWISTOWN	10.7	10.8	10.8	10.3	10.1	9.9	.4	.7	.9	*4.1*	*6.4*	*8.0*
MILES CITY	13.2	13.2	13.2	12.6	12.5	12.2	.6	.7	1.0	*4.8*	*5.5*	*7.5*
MISSOULA	39.7	39.7	39.1	36.1	35.8	35.1	3.6	3.9	4.0	*9.1*	*9.9*	*10.2*
SHELBY-CUT BANK	17.1	16.9	16.5	16.2	15.9	15.5	.9	1.0	1.0	*5.3*	*5.6*	*6.3*

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on page 39. See map on inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

TABLE VIII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	DEC. 1976	DEC. 1975	Percent Change 1975-1976	DEC. 1976	DEC. 1975	Percent Change 1975-1976	DEC. 1976	DEC. 1975	Net Change 1975-1976	DEC. 1976	DEC. 1975	Net Change 1975-1976
STATEWIDE	325.0	330.7	-1.7	300.4	300.6	- .1	24.6	30.1	-5.5	7.6	9.1	-1.4
GREAT FALLS SMSA	33.4	33.0	1.2	31.3	30.2	3.6	2.1	2.8	- .7	6.4	8.5	-2.1
BILLINGS SMSA	50.9	48.6	4.7	48.1	45.4	5.9	2.8	3.2	- .4	5.5	6.5	-1.0
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	240.7	249.1	-3.4	221.0	225.0	-1.8	19.7	24.1	-4.4	8.2	9.7	-1.5
ANACONDA-BUTTE	34.5	36.4	-5.2	31.6	32.2	-1.9	2.9	4.2	-1.3	8.4	11.5	-3.1
BOZEMAN	23.2	24.2	-4.1	21.6	22.0	-1.8	1.6	2.2	- .6	7.0	9.1	-2.1
GLASGOW	15.6	16.0	-2.5	14.6	14.9	-2.0	1.0	1.1	- .1	6.4	6.9	- .5
GLENDIVE	13.1	13.2	- .8	12.3	12.5	-1.6	.8	.7	.1	6.0	5.3	.7
HARDIN-RED LODGE	10.6	10.9	-2.8	9.9	10.1	-2.0	.7	.8	- .1	7.1	7.3	- .2
HAVRE	11.6	11.8	-1.7	10.8	11.0	-1.8	.8	.8	0	6.8	6.8	0
HELENA	21.4	21.8	-1.8	19.8	20.2	-2.0	1.6	1.6	0	7.4	7.3	.1
KALISPELL	31.1	33.2	-6.3	27.7	28.2	-1.8	3.4	5.0	-1.6	10.8	15.1	-4.3
LEWISTOWN	10.8	10.9	- .9	9.9	10.1	-2.0	.9	.8	.1	8.0	7.3	.7
MILES CITY	13.2	13.3	- .8	12.2	12.4	-1.6	1.0	.9	.1	7.5	6.8	.7
MISSOULA	39.1	40.6	-3.7	35.1	35.7	-1.7	4.0	4.9	- .9	10.2	12.1	-1.9
SHELBY-CUT BANK	16.5	16.8	-1.8	15.5	15.7	-1.3	1.0	1.1	- .1	6.3	6.5	- .2

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on page 39. See map on inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

Table IX

MONTANA

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

DECEMBER 1976

(In Thousands)

INDUSTRY	FEMALE EMPLOYMENT					TOTAL EMPLOYMENT COMPARISON			
				Net Change to Current Month From:					
	DEC.1/ 1976	NOV. 1976	DEC. 1975	NOV. 1976	DEC. 1975	Total	Percent Women	Total	Percent Women
						DECEMBER 1976		DECEMBER 1975	
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers .	102.1	102.2	98.4	-0.1	3.7	246.1	*41.5*	243.0	*40.5*
Manufacturing	3.0	3.1	2.6	-0.1	0.4	23.0	*13.0*	22.2	*11.7*
Nonmanufacturing									
Mining	0.3	0.3	0.3	0	0	5.8	*5.2*	6.1	*4.9*
Contract Construction	0.8	0.8	0.9	0	-.1	11.0	*7.3*	11.4	*7.9*
Transportation & Public Utilities .	3.5	3.5	3.5	0	0	19.5	*17.9*	19.1	*18.3*
Wholesale & Retail Trade	26.3	26.3	26.0	0	.3	60.9	*43.2*	61.3	*42.4*
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate ..	6.7	6.7	6.4	0	.3	10.7	*62.6*	10.4	*61.5*
Services	29.9	29.9	28.3	0	1.6	47.3	*63.2*	45.3	*62.5*
Government	31.6	31.6	30.4	0	1.2	67.9	*46.5*	67.2	*45.2*

1/ Current month preliminary. Revised to 1975 Benchmark. Establishment Series began January 1974.

2/ Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged.

Prepared by the Montana Employment Security Division in Cooperation with the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table X

MONTANA FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

(In Thousands)

1975

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann. Avg.
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	88.6	88.9	91.2	92.5	95.0	97.6	95.4	95.3	97.3	96.9	98.2	98.4	94.6
Manufacturing	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.5
Nonmanufacturing	86.3	86.6	88.9	90.2	92.6	95.0	92.7	92.7	94.7	94.1	95.5	95.8	92.1
Mining	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3
Contract Construction	.8	.7	.7	.8	.8	.9	.9	.9	.9	.9	.9	.9	.8
Transport. & Public Utilities	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	22.6	21.9	22.8	24.1	25.1	25.8	26.3	27.0	27.1	25.2	25.5	26.0	24.9
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	5.9	5.9	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.4	6.2
Services	26.4	26.2	27.1	27.2	28.3	29.4	29.4	29.7	28.9	28.1	28.0	28.3	28.1
Government[1]/	27.0	28.2	28.6	28.5	28.6	28.9	25.9	24.9	27.5	29.7	31.0	30.4	28.3

1976

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	95.5	95.4	96.5	97.6	98.7	98.9	99.0	98.4	99.5	101.2	102.2
Manufacturing	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.1
Mining	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3
Contract Construction	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8
Transport. & Public Utilities	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	23.3	23.0	23.8	24.7	25.2	25.5	26.1	25.9	26.1	26.0	26.3
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7
Services	28.3	28.3	28.5	28.6	28.8	28.9	29.4	29.5	29.8	29.7	29.9
Government[1]/	30.3	30.5	30.6	30.6	30.8	30.3	29.1	28.5	29.2	31.0	31.6

1/ Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged. Establishment Series began January, 1974. Revised to 1975 Benchmark.
Prepared by Montana Employment Security Division in cooperation with U. S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table XI

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF APPLICANTS IN THE ACTIVE FILES IN EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICES

November 1976

D.O.T. Code	Occupational Title	Total	Female	Veteran	Minority	Economically Disadvantaged
0-1	Professional, Tech. & Managerial	2,946	1,141	1,004	204	323
20-24	Clerical	3,814	3,319	294	264	654
25-29	Sales	1,944	1,229	319	64	334
30	Domestic	873	481	56	143	367
31-39	Other Services	5,155	3,624	639	457	1,597
4	Farming, Fishery & Forestry	2,017	288	628	308	945
5	Processing	295	57	94	15	50
6	Machine Trades	1,567	69	758	96	214
7	Bench Work	297	114	87	70	82
8	Structural Work	5,947	97	2,665	576	923
90-91	Motor Freight & Transportation	1,886	105	922	93	273
92	Packaging & Material Handling	2,111	100	686	252	523
93-97	Miscellaneous	819	29	363	70	146
	Occupation Not Determined	1,690	903	256	227	576
	Total	31,455	11,584	8,794	2,851	7,024

NONAGRICULTURAL JOB OPENINGS BY OCCUPATION

November 1976

D.O.T. Code	Occupational Title	Total Received	Openings Filled	Unfilled Total	Open 30 days +
0-1	Professional, Tech. & Managerial	373	220	240	148
20-24	Clerical	1,111	845	328	172
25-29	Sales	530	333	189	105
30	Domestic	418	394	57	30
31-39	Other Services	1,430	1,136	474	279
4	Farming, Fishery & Forestry	78	83	29	26
5	Processing	73	59	32	21
6	Machine Trades	172	127	77	43
7	Bench Work	85	74	36	21
8	Structural Work	1,057	1,000	242	162
90-91	Motor Freight & Transportation	546	456	107	66
92	Packaging & Material Handling	1,299	1,273	112	67
93-97	Miscellaneous	173	143	48	39
	Total	7,356	6,152	1,985	1,190

Source---ESARS The above data are total Fiscal Year-to-date.

Table XII

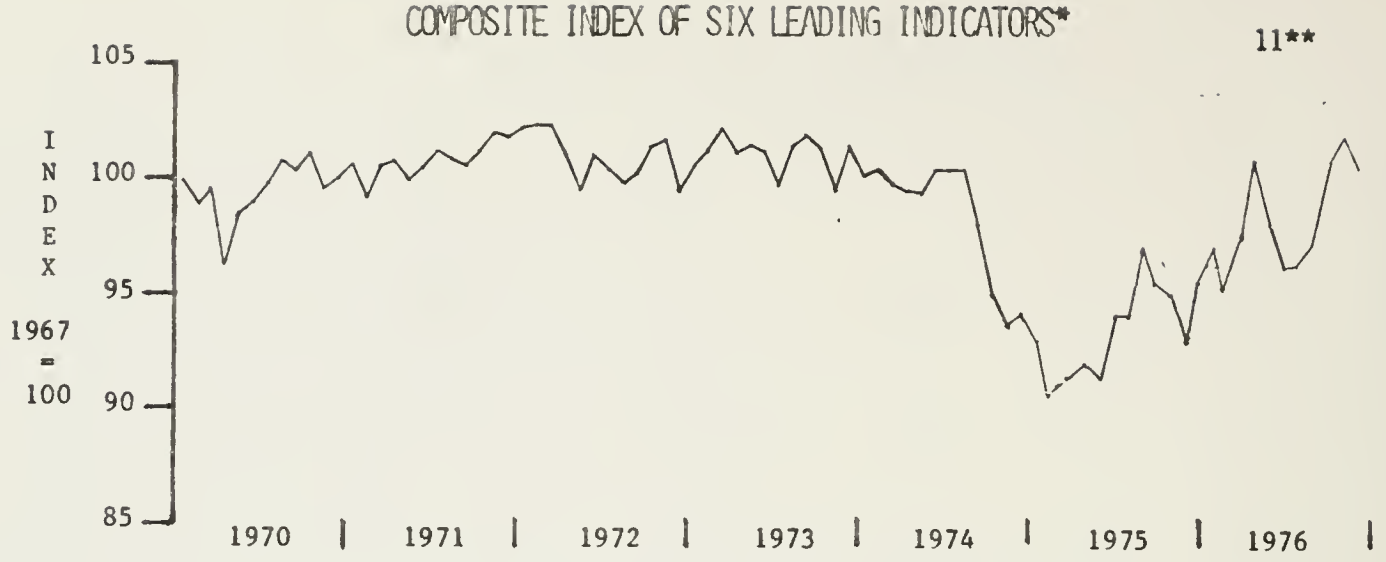
SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF INDIVIDUALS
PLACED THROUGH THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

November 1976

Category	Total	Non-Ag	Agricultural
Age - Total	5,144	4,768	501
Under 20	1,129	1,048	104
20-21	773	719	75
22-24	911	850	82
25-29	845	805	63
30-39	773	734	60
40-44	216	195	27
45-54	321	272	57
55-64	145	121	25
65 and over	31	24	8
Sex			
Male	3,222	2,891	449
Female	1,922	1,877	52
Highest School Grade			
0-7	115	94	25
8-11	1,585	1,418	221
12	2,255	2,125	178
Over 12	1,189	1,131	77
Residence			
Urban	3,397	3,203	278
Rural	1,747	1,565	223
Ethnic Group			
White	4,657	4,345	421
Black	31	29	2
American Indian	334	280	68
Other	105	97	10
N/A	17	17	0
Spanish American	100	94	11
Veteran			
Total	1,194	1,064	177
Recently Separated	305	281	31
Disabled	71	58	15
Vietnam era	748	682	93
Other Selected Characteristics			
Handicapped	411	376	51
Economically Disadvantaged	1,055	960	120
Food Stamps	336	311	33
Welfare	191	184	8

Source: ESARS

ECONOMIC INDICATORS



Composite Index of SIX LEADING INDICATORS 1967 = 100

1975	
January	92.7
February	90.3
March	91.0
April	91.6
May	91.0
June	93.7
July	93.7
August	96.7
September	95.2
October	94.8
November	92.7
December	95.3
1976	
January	96.8
February	95.0
March	97.4
April	100.5
May	97.7
June	95.7
July	95.9
August	96.9
September	100.9
October	101.5
November	100.4
December	

MONTANA's COMPOSITE INDEX

COMPOSITE INDEX

Montana's November COMPOSITE INDEX slipped to 100.4 from 101.5 in October. Nevertheless, the manufacturing components of the index continued to advance strongly. Average weekly hours in manufacturing climbed to 42.2 and manufacturing employment rose to 23,100 from 22,900 in October. Accessions, layoffs, and average weekly initial claims were virtually unchanged. Building permits account for the bulk of the decline in the index. Even though permit totals for November are well above last year's level, a decrease of 16% from October to November produced a similar effect in the monthly index value.

* *Employment, Average Weekly Hours, Total Accessions, and Layoffs in Manufacturing; Building Permits, and Average Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims.*

** *Indicates last month of plotted data.*

Table XIII

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ Montana	Percent 1/ U. S.	
1974								
January	315.1	293.2	257.5	35.7	21.9	7.0	5.2	.1
February	314.2	294.7	260.4	34.3	19.5	6.2	5.2	*
March	317.1	297.2	261.8	35.4	19.9	6.3	5.1	*
April	318.6	297.2	265.1	32.1	21.4	6.7	5.0	*
May	325.5	303.9	267.3	36.6	21.6	6.6	5.2	4.0
June	327.8	304.1	267.9	36.2	23.7	7.2	5.2	2.0
July	326.6	304.6	266.5	38.1	22.0	6.7	5.3	*
August	319.2	298.4	267.0	31.4	20.8	6.5	5.4	.2
September	322.6	301.7	270.5	31.2	20.9	6.5	5.8	*
October	327.3	305.6	268.1	37.5	21.7	6.6	6.0	*
November	328.5	305.5	268.7	36.8	23.0	7.0	6.6	.1
December	328.2	305.1	269.1	36.0	23.1	7.0	7.2	*
1974 Avg.	322.6	301.0	265.9	35.1	21.6	6.7	5.6	.5
1975								
January	326.0	303.0	265.8	37.2	23.0	7.0	8.2	*
February	326.4	300.0	263.3	36.7	26.4	8.1	8.2	.1
March	326.0	300.0	265.2	34.8	26.0	8.0	8.7	.3
April	323.2	295.6	262.7	32.9	27.6	8.5	8.9	.2
May	325.6	299.0	265.1	33.9	26.6	8.2	9.2	.1
June	327.4	299.7	267.7	32.0	27.7	8.4	8.6	.1
July	327.8	301.3	268.9	32.4	26.5	8.1	8.4	.2
August	329.3	302.9	270.2	32.7	26.4	8.0	8.4	*
September	333.1	306.3	273.7	32.6	26.8	8.1	8.3	.3
October	336.4	308.4	273.1	35.3	28.0	8.3	8.6	.3
November	341.0	313.0	275.4	37.6	28.0	8.2	8.3	.2
December	343.5	314.0	274.6	39.4	29.5	8.6	8.3	.2
1975 Avg.	330.5	303.6	268.8	34.8	26.9	8.1	8.5	.1
1976								
January	342.7	315.0	274.6	40.4	27.7	8.1	7.8	*
February	341.1	314.6	275.6	39.0	26.5	7.8	7.6	*
March	337.8	309.9	273.8	36.1	27.9	8.3	7.5	*
April	332.6	307.2	272.2	35.0	25.4	7.6	7.5	*
May	328.2	302.9	269.4	33.5	25.3	7.7	7.3	*
June	320.7	293.6	261.9	31.7	27.1	8.4	7.5	.1
July	321.6	294.4	264.5	29.9	27.2	8.5	7.8	.1
August	319.1	292.2	262.3	29.9	26.9	8.4	7.9	.1
September	322.4	297.7	267.5	30.2	24.7	7.7	7.8	.1
October	332.8	307.9	273.6	34.3	24.9	7.5	7.9	.1
November	338.4	313.9	278.7	35.2	24.5	7.3	8.1	.1
December	336.9	313.1	277.3	35.8	23.8	7.1	7.9	.1
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.
2/ Non-additive - included in total employment.
* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1975 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

RESIDENCE DATA

Table XIV

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 3/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1974								
January	32.8	30.3	28.8	1.5	2.5	7.6	7.0	*
February	32.4	30.3	28.8	1.5	2.1	6.5	6.2	*
March	32.6	30.4	28.9	1.5	2.2	6.7	6.3	*
April	32.4	30.2	28.8	1.4	2.2	6.8	6.7	*
May	32.4	30.2	28.6	1.6	2.2	6.8	6.6	1.4
June	32.5	30.3	28.7	1.6	2.2	6.8	7.2	1.2
July	32.6	30.5	28.7	1.8	2.1	6.4	6.7	*
August	32.6	30.5	29.1	1.4	2.1	6.4	6.5	*
September	32.5	30.5	29.2	1.3	2.0	6.2	6.5	*
October	33.2	31.1	29.5	1.6	2.1	6.3	6.6	*
November	32.7	30.5	28.9	1.6	2.2	6.7	7.0	*
December	32.8	30.6	29.1	1.5	2.2	6.7	6.0	*
1974 Avg.	32.7	30.5	29.0	1.5	2.2	6.7	6.7	.2
1975								
January	32.4	30.3	28.7	1.6	2.1	6.5	7.0	*
February	32.7	30.0	28.5	1.5	2.7	8.3	8.1	*
March	32.5	29.9	28.5	1.4	2.6	8.1	8.0	.1
April	32.6	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.8	8.7	8.5	.1
May	32.4	29.9	28.6	1.3	2.5	7.8	8.2	*
June	32.2	29.7	28.5	1.2	2.5	7.8	8.4	*
July	32.4	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.6	8.2	8.1	*
August	32.5	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.7	8.2	8.0	*
September	32.7	30.0	28.8	1.2	2.7	8.2	8.1	*
October	33.0	30.0	28.7	1.3	3.0	9.0	8.3	*
November	33.6	30.8	29.3	1.5	2.8	8.3	8.2	*
December	33.4	30.5	29.0	1.5	2.9	8.8	8.6	*
1975 Avg.	32.7	30.0	28.6	1.4	2.7	8.2	8.1	*
1976								
January	33.7	31.0	29.3	1.7	2.7	8.0	8.1	*
February	33.6	31.0	29.4	1.6	2.6	7.7	7.8	*
March	33.7	30.8	29.4	1.4	2.9	8.6	8.3	*
April	32.5	29.8	28.4	1.4	2.7	8.3	7.6	*
May	33.1	30.7	29.4	1.3	2.4	7.3	7.7	*
June	33.3	30.4	29.2	1.2	2.9	8.8	8.4	*
July	33.1	30.3	29.1	1.2	2.8	8.4	8.5	*
August	33.0	30.4	29.2	1.2	2.6	8.0	8.4	*
September	32.9	30.6	29.4	1.2	2.3	6.9	7.7	*
October	34.0	31.5	30.2	1.3	2.5	7.4	7.5	*
November	34.2	31.7	30.3	1.4	2.5	7.3	7.3	*
December	34.1	31.8	30.4	1.4	2.3	6.8	7.1	*
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment.

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1975 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Table XV

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1974								
January	45.4	42.5	41.0	1.5	2.9	6.4	7.0	*
February	45.1	42.9	41.4	1.5	2.2	4.9	6.2	*
March	45.5	43.4	41.7	1.7	2.1	4.6	6.3	*
April	45.6	43.1	41.4	1.7	2.5	5.5	6.7	*
May	45.8	43.4	41.5	1.9	2.4	5.2	6.6	.5
June	46.4	43.6	41.6	2.0	2.8	6.0	7.2	.5
July	46.6	44.1	42.1	2.0	2.5	5.4	6.7	*
August	46.2	44.0	42.0	2.0	2.2	4.8	6.5	*
September	46.2	43.9	42.3	1.6	2.3	5.0	6.5	*
October	46.2	43.9	42.0	1.9	2.3	5.0	6.6	*
November	45.6	43.2	41.4	1.8	2.4	5.3	7.0	*
December	45.8	43.5	41.7	1.8	2.3	5.0	7.0	*
1974 Avg.	45.9	43.5	41.7	1.8	2.4	5.3	6.7	*
1975								
January	46.9	44.0	42.3	1.7	2.9	6.2	7.0	*
February	46.6	43.3	41.6	1.7	3.3	7.0	8.1	*
March	46.5	43.3	41.7	1.6	3.2	7.0	8.0	.1
April	47.3	43.7	42.2	1.5	3.6	7.6	8.5	*
May	47.3	44.3	42.8	1.5	3.0	6.3	8.2	*
June	47.3	44.2	42.7	1.5	3.1	6.5	8.4	*
July	47.8	44.7	43.3	1.4	3.1	6.5	8.1	*
August	48.2	45.0	43.4	1.6	3.2	6.5	8.0	*
September	48.6	45.4	43.9	1.5	3.2	6.6	8.1	.2
October	48.0	44.8	43.2	1.6	3.2	6.7	8.3	.2
November	49.0	45.9	44.2	1.7	3.1	6.3	8.2	*
December	49.0	45.8	44.0	1.8	3.2	6.6	8.6	*
1975 Avg.	47.7	44.5	42.9	1.6	3.2	6.7	8.1	*
1976								
January	49.0	45.8	44.0	1.8	3.2	6.6	8.1	*
February	48.8	45.9	44.2	1.7	2.9	6.0	7.8	*
March	48.7	45.6	44.0	1.6	3.1	6.4	8.3	*
April	48.7	45.7	44.1	1.6	3.0	6.2	7.6	*
May	47.9	45.3	43.8	1.5	2.6	5.5	7.7	*
June	48.9	45.7	44.2	1.5	3.2	6.5	8.4	*
July	48.7	45.7	44.4	1.3	3.0	6.2	8.5	*
August	48.7	45.8	44.3	1.5	2.9	5.9	8.4	*
September	49.9	47.2	45.8	1.4	2.7	5.4	7.7	*
October	50.4	47.7	46.1	1.6	2.7	5.5	7.5	*
November	50.9	48.1	46.5	1.6	2.8	5.4	7.3	*
December	51.1	48.2	46.5	1.7	2.9	5.6	7.1	*
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment.

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1975 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Table XVI

MONTANA HOURS AND EARNINGS

For Private Nonagricultural Industries

DECEMBER 1976

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Dec. 1976	Nov. 1976	Dec. 1975	Dec. 1976	Nov. 1976	Dec. 1975	Dec. 1976	Nov. 1976	Dec. 1975
TOTAL PRIVATE	$174.52	$175.02	$167.81	35.4	35.5	36.8	4.93	4.93	4.56
MANUFACTURING	252.45	248.12	220.49	42.5	41.7	39.8	5.94	5.95	5.54
Durable Goods	253.89	249.90	222.49	43.4	42.5	40.6	5.85	5.88	5.48
Primary Metal Industries	283.50	284.20	249.05	40.5	40.6	40.3	7.00	7.00	6.18
Nondurable Goods	245.43	241.20	215.07	40.3	40.0	37.6	6.09	6.03	5.72
Food and Kindred Products	230.29	225.08	192.53	42.1	41.3	37.9	5.47	5.45	5.08
MINING	319.68	318.69	301.91	43.2	43.3	45.4	7.40	7.36	6.65
Metal Mining	301.79	301.79	306.22	40.4	40.4	44.9	7.47	7.47	6.82
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	322.31	329.16	301.40	38.6	39.0	38.2	8.35	8.44	7.89
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	282.57	276.22	270.72	41.8	41.6	42.3	6.76	6.64	6.40
Communications, Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	250.45	250.04	238.19	40.2	40.2	40.1	6.23	6.22	5.94
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	140.07	140.88	133.95	34.5	34.7	36.4	4.06	4.06	3.68
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	126.02	126.02	119.60	35.5	35.8	36.8	3.55	3.52	3.25
SERVICES	107.08	107.51	105.29	29.5	29.7	32.7	3.63	3.62	3.22

Data for current month are preliminary.
Averages are based on gross earnings, including overtime and premium pay.
Selected Industries series began January 1950; Total Private Sector series began January 1969 (May 1972 issue).
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

Table XVII

MONTANA LABOR TURNOVER RATES

In Manufacturing and Mining Industries

(per 100 employees)

NOVEMBER 1976

	ACCESSION RATES						SEPARATION RATES								
	Total			New Hires			Total			Quits			Layoffs		
	NOV. 1976	OCT. 1976	NOV. 1975	NOV. 1976	OCT. 1976	NOV. 1975	NOV. 1976	OCT. 1976	NOV. 1975	NOV. 1976	OCT. 1976	NOV. 1975	NOV. 1976	OCT. 1976	NOV. 1975
MANUFACTURING	2.3	4.4	1.7	1.9	4.0	1.5	3.9	3.1	3.4	1.6	1.8	1.0	1.8	0.5	1.7
Durable Goods	1.6	2.0	0.5	1.2	1.6	0.9	2.6	2.3	2.6	1.1	1.2	0.8	0.9	0.3	0.9
Primary Metal Industries	1.6	2.4	0.5	0.7	0.9	*	2.7	1.0	2.4	0.5	0.5	0.1	1.7	0.0	1.6
Nondurable Goods	3.4	8.2	2.8	3.0	8.0	2.7	6.0	4.4	4.9	2.4	2.8	1.4	3.0	0.8	3.0
MINING	0.7	1.8	2.8	0.4	0.6	2.1	6.2	2.5	4.9	1.4	1.8	1.1	4.3	0.1	3.0
Metal Mining	1.1	1.2	1.7	0.1	0.1	*	1.5	1.5	7.8	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	6.8

* *Less than .05.*
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Series began January 1959.

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY INDUSTRY

New business firms in Montana are a reflection of economic activity within the business community. Data furnished on this page and the following page are an aggregate of information supplied by the office of the Montana Secretary of State and the Montana Employment Security Division. These data should in no way be construed as being absolute. They are presented to indicate business trends during the survey period.

The chart on the following page is a break-down by county and labor market area of business starts in Montana during the current month and year to date, with a comparison to the previous year.

The following chart is a break-down of new businesses by industry, with a comparison to last year.

Industry	DEC 1976	DEC 1975	Year to Date 1976	Year to Date 1975
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERIES	78	41	358	307
MINING	13	2	117	67
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	46	26	547	354
MANUFACTURING	8	10	139	109
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, ELECTRIC, GAS, AND SANITARY SERVICES	15	10	121	74
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	86	48	782	583
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	32	17	303	221
SERVICES	96	67	1052	948
GOVERNMENT	0	0	0	0
NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	3	0	35	2
STATE TOTAL	377	221	3454	2665

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY LABOR MARKET AREA

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS			
	DEC 1976	DEC 1975	Year to Date 1976	Year to Date 1975
STATE OF MONTANA	377	221	3454	2665
GREAT FALLS SMSA	36	16	310	235
BILLINGS SMSA	64	30	583	398
ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA	22	20	254	196
Beaverhead	4	6	37	44
Deer Lodge	0	3	28	23
Granite	2	0	8	3
Madison	2	0	26	22
Powell	1	2	21	14
Silver Bow	13	9	134	90
BOZEMAN LMA	34	18	292	238
Gallatin	25	12	238	194
Meagher	0	3	6	8
Park	9	3	48	36
GLASGOW LMA	12	16	141	116
Daniels	2	1	31	24
Phillips	4	1	9	15
Roosevelt	3	5	39	37
Sheridan	1	4	24	18
Valley	2	5	38	22
GLENDIVE LMA	15	15	110	116
Dawson	4	10	34	54
Garfield	0	0	6	9
McCone	7	1	20	15
Prairie	0	0	7	4
Richland	3	4	41	33
Wibaux	1	0	2	1
HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA	9	4	90	74
Big Horn	2	2	20	37
Carbon	1	0	27	11
Stillwater	3	0	20	14
Sweet Grass	3	2	23	12

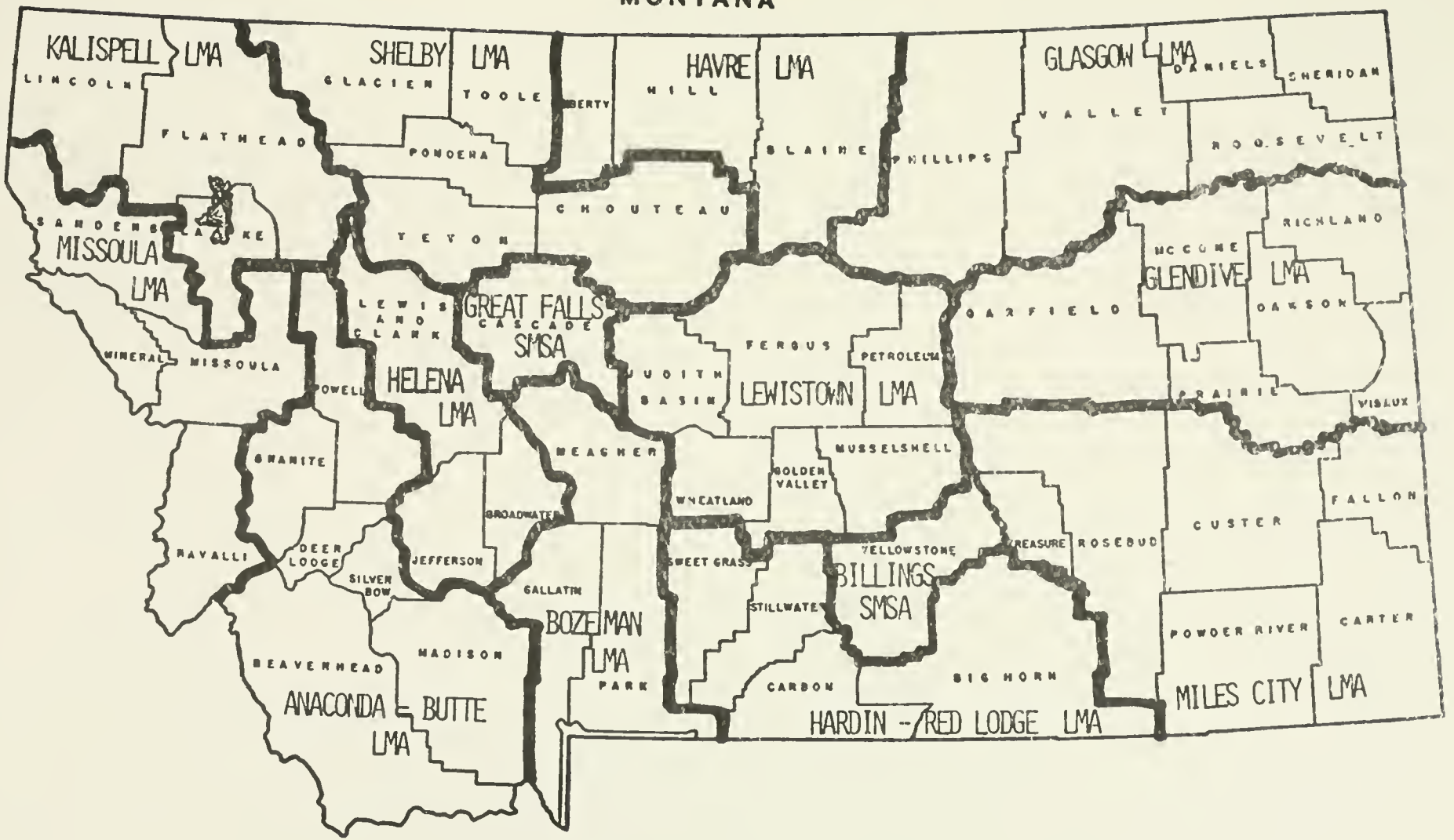
Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS			
	DEC 1976	DEC 1975	Year to Date 1976	Year to Date 1975
HAVRE LMA	20	6	127	87
Blaine	1	1	17	21
Hill	14	3	89	59
Liberty	5	2	21	7
HELENA LMA	23	20	233	181
Broadwater	2	0	14	8
Jefferson	4	2	14	19
Lewis and Clark	17	18	205	154
KALISPELL LMA	39	29	413	292
Flathead	24	14	270	195
Lake	12	12	92	66
Lincoln	3	3	51	31
LEWISTOWN LMA	10	7	73	55
Fergus	5	5	41	38
Golden Valley	0	0	4	0
Judith Basin	2	1	4	2
Musselshell	2	1	15	10
Petroleum	0	0	2	0
Wheatland	1	0	7	5
MILES CITY LMA	16	5	163	117
Carter	1	0	11	4
Custer	9	2	78	51
Fallon	2	1	21	19
Powder River	2	1	14	8
Rosebud	2	1	36	30
Treasure	0	0	3	5
MISSOULA LMA	50	24	491	432
Mineral	0	0	14	8
Missoula	35	13	361	328
Ravalli	7	7	59	57
Sanders	8	4	57	39
SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA	27	11	174	128
Chouteau	4	1	24	14
Glacier	9	2	48	39
Pondera	6	7	41	36
Teton	4	1	33	19
Toole	4	0	28	20

Source of data: State of Montana Employment Security Division, Research and Analysis Section; Montana Secretary of State.

LABOR MARKET AREAS

IN

MONTANA



EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
P. O. Box 1728
Helena, Montana 59601

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

The Montana State Employment Service maintains 23 local employment offices in the principal cities of Montana. You are invited to call on any of these offices for assistance in filling positions in your organization, additional labor market information, and for other services in connection with your employment problems.